

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
April 28, 2015
7:00 p.m. at Ionia County Central Dispatch Building

The Chair called the meeting to order and led with the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Hodges gave the Invocation.

Members present: David Hodges, Larry Tiejema, Jim Banks, Brenda Cowling- Cronk, Scott Wirtz, Jack Shattuck and Julie Calley

Others present: Jack Elliott, Tom Thelen, Bob VanLente, Goose Elliott, David Jager, Frank Bednarek, Judy Clark, Dave Layman, Lori Johnson, Shelly Keene, Kimberly Becker, Elizabeth Waldon, Dan Petersen, Pamela Moore, Don Benjamin, Stephanie Fox and Tonda Rich

Approval of Agenda

Chair Calley noted that items C. and D. under Unfinished Business would be switched around. Moved by Cowling- Cronk, supported by Shattuck, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

Public Comment

Jack Elliott commented on the Friend of the Court and county expenditures. Goose Elliott questioned how much the County has spent so far on facilities (drawings, meetings, planning) and commented on the possible closing of Library Street.

Did You Know?

Commissioner Cowling- Cronk and Chair Calley stated facts of interest.

Consent Calendar

- A. Approve minutes of the previous meeting(s)
- B. Approve per diem and mileage
- C. Approve payment of General Fund payroll and accounts payable for the month of March 2015 - \$1,149,201.68
- D. Approve payment of Health Fund bills - \$89,210.96

Commissioner Wirtz requested to pull his per diem from the Consent Calendar and amend the March 24th meeting per diem to \$50. Commissioner Cowling- Cronk requested to pull her per diem voucher and amend it to add a meeting on March 16th for \$25. Moved by Shattuck, supported by Cowling- Cronk, to

approve the amended vouchers for Commissioners' Wirtz and Cowling- Cronk. Motion carried by voice vote.

Hearing no objections, the Chair declared the remaining items on the Consent Calendar approved.

Unfinished Business

- A. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Shattuck, to approve the two (2) Farmland Agreements (local file no. 15- 002FA & 15- 003FA) filed by MarLyle LLC for properties located in Sebewa Township. Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Cowling- Cronk, supported by Shattuck, to approve the two (2) Farmland Agreements (local file no. 15- 004FA & 15- 005FA) filed by Doezema Real Estate LLC for properties located in Berlin and Boston Townships. Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Wirtz, supported by Tiejema, to approve the Farmland Agreement (local file no. 15- 007FA) filed by Philip and Mary Seidelman for property located in Ronald Township. Motion carried by voice vote.

B. **Appointments**

Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan Advisory Council – Moved by Tiejema, supported by Hodges, to appoint Ojar Smits to the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan Advisory Council for a three year term. Motion carried by voice vote.

Economic Development Corporation/Brownfield Redevelopment Authority – Moved by Tiejema, supported by Cowling- Cronk, to appoint Melissa Eldridge and Ken Bowen to the Economic Development Corporation/Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for a three year term. Motion carried by voice vote.

Jury Board – Moved by Cowling- Cronk, supported by Tiejema, to appoint Dave Cook and Jim McKay to the Jury Board for a six year term. Motion carried by voice vote.

Land Bank Authority – Moved by Tiejema, supported by Shattuck, to appoint Brett Patterson as the City/Township Representative to the Land Bank Authority. Motion carried by voice vote. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Hodges, to appoint Ron Possehn to the Land Bank Authority. Motion carried by voice vote.

- C. Frank Bednarek and Dave Layman met with the Board to continue the facilities discussion. Bednarek and Layman stated that construction costs have risen, but should soon see material costs level out. Bednarek

stated that the existing foundation (old jail) and walls are in good shape and by using the existing foundation, this would create a savings per square foot.

By going with a three floor plan, Layman explained that the County would not be saving a whole lot due to the electrical and plumbing that would still need to be installed. The current jail cells are supporting the second floor and if/when the jail cells are removed, a new floor would have to be installed as well as re-enforced.

A couple of issues in regard to the remodeling, Bednarek and Layman pointed out that the jail is painted with a lead based paint and the site/building has asbestos. Commissioners questioned the value they would receive from the steel. Layman explained that the amount the county would get for the steel would basically be paid out for the removal of the asbestos. In addition, Layman stated that removing the lead paint will be an issue as well.

Other discussions included a possible time frame, the heating system and elevator options. Bednarek stated that more discussion can take place once the environmental and structural reports come back.

- D. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Hodges, that Ionia County stay with the Central Area Michigan Works Consortium. An hour long discussion followed. Commissioner Tiejema voiced his concern about joining the Workforce Development Board stating that since Ionia County would be one of the smaller counties, they would only have one vote on the Board, whereas, the larger counties may have 3 or more votes on the Board. Tiejema engaged conversation and questioned Dan Petersen, who is the Chief Administrator for CAMWC. Petersen stated that if Ionia County were to stay with the Consortium, Ionia would be in with counties similar in size (Montcalm, Gratiot and Isabella). Petersen explained how funding is determined (formula funding) and that Ionia County currently receives 27.9% of the funding. Discussion followed with commissioners voicing concern that Ionia County was not kept in the loop concerning this change (regional workforce development agencies). Each commissioner was given the opportunity to comment. Commissioner Banks called the question. Chair Calley called for the vote. Motion failed by voice vote, with Commissioners' Banks, Wirtz, Shattuck and Calley voting no.

New Business

- A. David Jager, acting Equalization Director, presented the 2015 Equalization Report in compliance with the General Property Tax Act, Section 211.34 of the Michigan Compiled Laws of 1948 as amended by Act 6 of the Public Acts of 1981. The 2015 report indicates the assessed value of real and personal property in Ionia County is \$2,008,051,865. Moved by Banks, supported by Cowling- Cronk, that the 2015 Equalization Report for Ionia County, which establishes the county's equalized value at \$2,008,051,865, be approved and authorize the signatures of all commissioners. Motion carried by voice vote.
- B. Moved by Shattuck, supported by Wirtz, to approve combining the .5 FTE Deputy County Clerk position with the .4 FTE Collections position to create one .9 FTE, Grade 7, Step 3, to be located in the County Clerk's Office. County Administrator Stephanie Fox stated that the position would qualify for benefits, approximately \$7,000 annually. Motion carried by voice vote.
- C. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Hodges, to approve posting and filling the Administrative Assistant position in the Administrative Office at a Grade 9, Step 1, or if filled internally, at the lowest step within Grade 9, with a start date of June 1, 2015. Fox stated that Mari Droste will be retiring May 29, 2015. Motion carried by voice vote.
- D. Moved by Cowling- Cronk, supported by Wirtz, to approve posting and filling the position of Information Systems Director at a Grade 12, Step 1. Motion carried by voice vote.

Chairperson's Report

- 1. Public Health Officer, Ken Bowen and Calley attended a County Health Rankings breakfast.
- 2. Thanked Commissioner Tiejema for his passion and work on the CAMWC issue and appreciates the County Administrator for her work on this issue as well.

County Administrator's Report

- 1. The crack- sealing project is underway at the Park.
- 2. Continuing to have on- going discussions with the Physical Plant Director concerning a new Maintenance Office/building.

Public Comment

Jack Elliott suggested building a one floor county building at the old Clothing Care site in Ionia.

Goose Elliott commented on the proposed new building stating that the majority of those in attendance at the Public Hearing were not in favor of a new

building and reminded the Board that they represent the citizens of Ionia County.

Moved by Cowling- Cronk, supported by Banks, to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

Julie Calley, Chair

Tonda Rich, Clerk

Minutes approved on
